



MEDIA RELEASE

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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Public Review Period Extended

KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, NM – Due to requests from the public, Kirtland Air Force Base has decided to extend by two weeks the public review period for Kirtland's Perimeter Fence Environmental Assessment (EA).

The review period will now conclude on May 7, 2004. The EA covers Kirtland's proposal to install a fence approximately one-half mile west of Kirtland's actual boundary.

The public may review the EA at the TVI library in Albuquerque and the East Mountain Library in Tijeras. The public can also find the EA on the Kirtland Air Force Base web site at www.kirtland.af.mil.

In accordance with the EA, Kirtland's plan is to construct the proposed fence in such a way that it will follow the natural terrain as much as possible. This will also leave as much non-mission essential acreage outside of the fence as can be done without adverse effect on Kirtland's many missions. Approximately 1,500 acres of Kirtland will remain east of the proposed fence.

Any alternative use for the land east of the proposed fence requires both an environmental assessment and remediation of unexploded ordnance before the land can be open for any use other than defense purposes. If some of the area east of the fence is eventually designated for recreational

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purposes, the firebreak running along the outside of the fence will create natural trail loops in places where the present trails are cut by the fence construction.

Kirtland will work with the US Forest Service over the course of the next year or more to accomplish an Eastern Boundary Area Use EA on the acreage outside the proposed fence. Kirtland plans to hold a public scoping meeting early this summer to receive the public's proposals for use of the land east of the proposed fence. The proposals will then be evaluated in the Eastern Boundary Area Use environmental assessment.

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Editor's Note: For more information, call the 377th Public Affairs Office at 846-4239/5991.